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UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

AUSTRALIA

14 January 1958

Reply from Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

....."on Wednesday, 23rd October, 1957, Universal Children's Day was fittingly observed in schools throughout Australia and in the Australian external territories of Papua and New Guinea, Norfolk Island and Nauru.

Special articles on the United Nations and UNICEF were published in advance in the monthly publications issued by the Education Department of each State, and these were used by teachers in preparing suitable celebrations in their schools. Details of organization were left to the various headmasters, but in general the celebrations consisted of special lessons and talks on the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, with particular attention to UNICEF. Special emphasis was given to the desirability of cultivating a spirit of international friendship, particularly amongst children."

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GREECE

23 January 1958

Reply from Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations

....."the Ministry of Social Welfare duly celebrated Universal Children's Day on 7 October 1957 with the participation of public departments, private organizations and the international organizations operating in Greece.

The celebration included the following activities:

A committee made up of representatives of the competent ministries, the church, private organizations and WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO was set up on the initiative of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

This committee worked out the programme of celebration in the capital and the provinces.

Accordingly, on 6 October, the eve of the day set aside for the celebration, Mrs. Tsaldaris, Minister of Social Welfare, broadcast a message emphasizing inter alia the importance of the anniversary of Universal Children's Day, which constitutes a proclamation of charity and love for the children of the whole world. The Minister of Labour, Mr. Leon Bournias, then spoke of the work of the public services on behalf of children forced to work in order to gain a livelihood.

A broadcast by Professor Per. Calogirou of the Athens School of Health entitled "The hungry child must be fed" was included in the cycle of events celebrating the Day on 7 October.

During the celebration, many brief reminders dealing with appropriate themes were broadcast.

The formal celebration took place on 7 October 1957 in the hall of the "Parnassos" Literary Association, in the presence of representatives of H.M.the Queen, His Grace the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, and of Mrs. Lina Tsaldaris, Minister of Social Welfare, Mr. A. Gerocostopolous, Minister of Education and Religion,Mr. L. Bournias, Minister of Labour, Mr. Jean Paareas,

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Under-Secretary of State for Social Welfare, high officials, representatives of various organizations and a large number of distinguished persons.

After the introduction by Mr. Vlissidis, Professor at the University of Athens, acting in his capacity as Chairman of the Parnassos Literary Association and speeches by the Ministers, Mrs. Lina Tsalbaris, A. Gerocostopolous and Jean Paareas, Mr. S. P. Galanos, Professor at the University of Athens, delivered the keynote address of the Day, whose subject was "The hungry child must be fed".

The entire celebration was recorded by dictaphone and broadcast over the radio at a time specially set aside for that purpose.

A booklet containing the Proclamation of Children's Rights and information on the activity of the public departments, private organizations and international organizations was distributed to everyone who attended the celebration. Similar booklets were later distributed throughout the country.

The celebration in the various provinces was of the same formal character. Appropriate instructions to that end had been given by the Ministry of Social Welfare and the participating public departments and organizations to their provincial sections which, in co-operation with the Adomarchs, organized the celebration of Universal Children's Day on the initiative of the departmental Bureaus of Public Health and Social Welfare.

Prizes and awards given to the healthiest children and dinners given to needy children constituted praiseworthy activities which fully reflected the spirit and goal of the celebration.

The Department of Public Education of the Ministry of Social Welfare was responsible for the supervision and organization of the celebration."

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